

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-17 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment adds new claims 22-27. Thus, claims 1-5, 7-17, and 22-27 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment. Claims 1 and 7 are independent.

Independent claims 1 and 7, as well as dependent claims 2, 5, 8-10, and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over U.S. Patent No. 3,830,278 to Packer. Dependent claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Packer in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,613,279 to Belfor (Belfor). Dependent claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Packer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,145,567 to Henley (Henley). Further, independent claims 1 and 7, as well as dependent claims 2, 5, and 8-17, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Packer in view of Japanese Publication No. 2002-113999 to Inoue (Inoue). Dependent claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Packer and Inoue in further view of Belfor.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to remove various elements. The amended claims are intended to no longer be limited to the specific mechanisms of patentability previously argued with respect to prior claim 1 and the Applicant therefore rescinds any disclaimer of claim scope so any prior art, for which such a disclaimer was made to avoid, may need to be revisited by the Examiner with respect to amended claim 1.

Independent claim 1 has also been amended to recite that "the connecting elements comprise two rod-shaped projections that are arranged at right angles to each other and that each are L-shaped in cross section". Support for this amendment can be found at least in the last paragraph of page 8, as well as in Figure 5.

Applicant submits that Packer, Belfor, Henley, and Inoue, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the connecting elements now claimed.

Specifically, Applicant submits that Packer, Belfor, Henley, and Inoue each fail to disclose or suggest connecting elements that have two rod-shaped projections that each are L-shaped in cross section as claimed.

Therefore, Applicant submit that claim 1, as well as claims 2-5 and 22-27 that depend therefrom, respectively, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-5 are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 7, similar to claim 1 discussed above, has been amended to recite "frame ledges connected by connecting elements to form a frame, wherein insertion pockets are provided in the frame ledges into which the connecting elements are inserted and wherein the connecting elements comprise two rod-shaped projections that are arranged at right angles to each other and that each are L-shaped in cross section".

Again, Applicant submits that Packer, Belfor, Henley, and Inoue, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest connecting elements that have two rod-shaped projections that each are L-shaped in cross section as claimed. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 7, as well as claims 8-17 that depend therefrom, respectively, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 7-17 are respectfully requested.

New claims 22-27 have been added to point out various aspects of the present application and are directed to the elected embodiment. Support for new claims 22-27 can be found at least at pages 8 and 9, as well as in Figures 2, 3, and 4. No new matter is added.

Claims 22-27 are each believed to be in condition for allowance.

For example, claims 22-27 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

In addition, claim 22 recites that the L-shaped cross section have legs of "different length" while claim 23 recites that the L-shaped cross section have legs of "different width". Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest the claimed legs at all, much less the claimed legs of different length or width.

Claim 24 recites that the two rod-shaped projections further comprise an L-shaped inner part inserted into an L-shaped carrier. Applicant also submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest projections with an L-shaped inner part inserted into an L-shaped carrier as claimed. Further, claim 25 recites that the L-shaped inner part is formed of a more elastic plastic than the L-shaped carrier and that the L-shaped inner part comprises lamellae, neither of which are disclosed or suggested by the cited art. Also, claim 26 further requires dove-tail shaped projections at the L-shaped carrier, which is also not disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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